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Introduction to Bookbinding

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Introduction to Bookbinding

Materials:

Computer paper/Copy paper 8.5 x 11 inches

Japanese Tissue Paper/Rice Paper

Cardstock

Colored Paper 8.5 x 11 inches

Thread (linen, poly-wrapped cotton, or anything that doesn't stretch or break when pulled)

Davy board/Chip board/Mat board

PVA glue

Bookcloth or decorative paper

Waste papers (old paper to be thrown out)



Tools:

Pencil

Needle

Scissors

Ruler

Glue brush

Bonefolder

Awl (optional)



Books have been around for over many centuries in various forms from bound palm leaves to the sewn codex. Early bookbinding originated in Asia with simple binding techniques and have developed throughout time to those resembling books found in a library today.

What are the aspects of a western-style book?

Cover

Pages < Folios < Signatures < Textblock

Head/tail/fore-edge

Spine

Cover is the front and back of the book that protects the pages. Typically the title and author of the book is placed on the cover.

Pages are where the content and information of the book is laid out. A single page or leaf that is folded is called a folio. When more than one folio is placed inside another folio they create a signature.

Folio < Signature (One signature can have four folios)

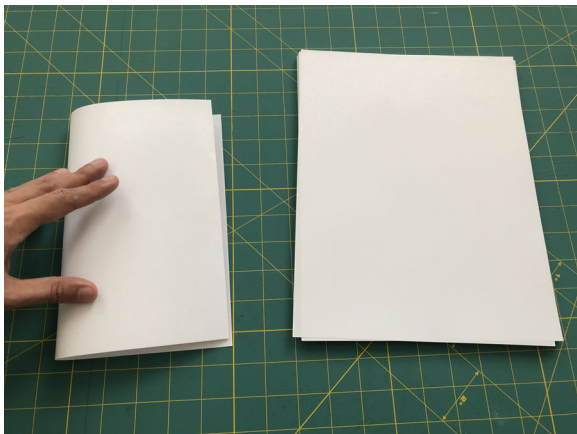
Multiple signatures are then stacked up and bound together to create a textblock.

French Link Stitch

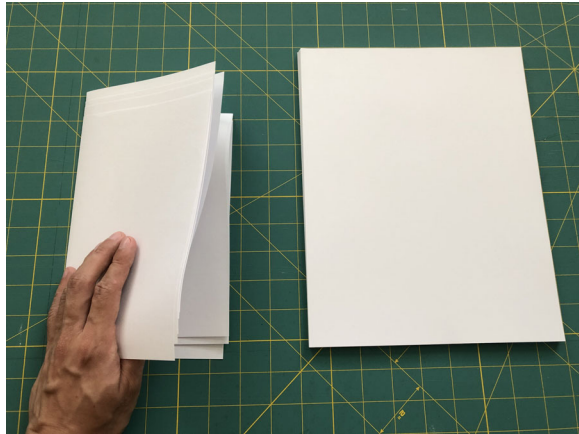
The French Link Stitch is used to bind any multiple-signatures, linking signatures across the spine. Once completed, the French Link Stitch can be visible, when used with separate covers, or it can be invisible inside a case binding.

PREPARING SIGNATURES FOR SEWING

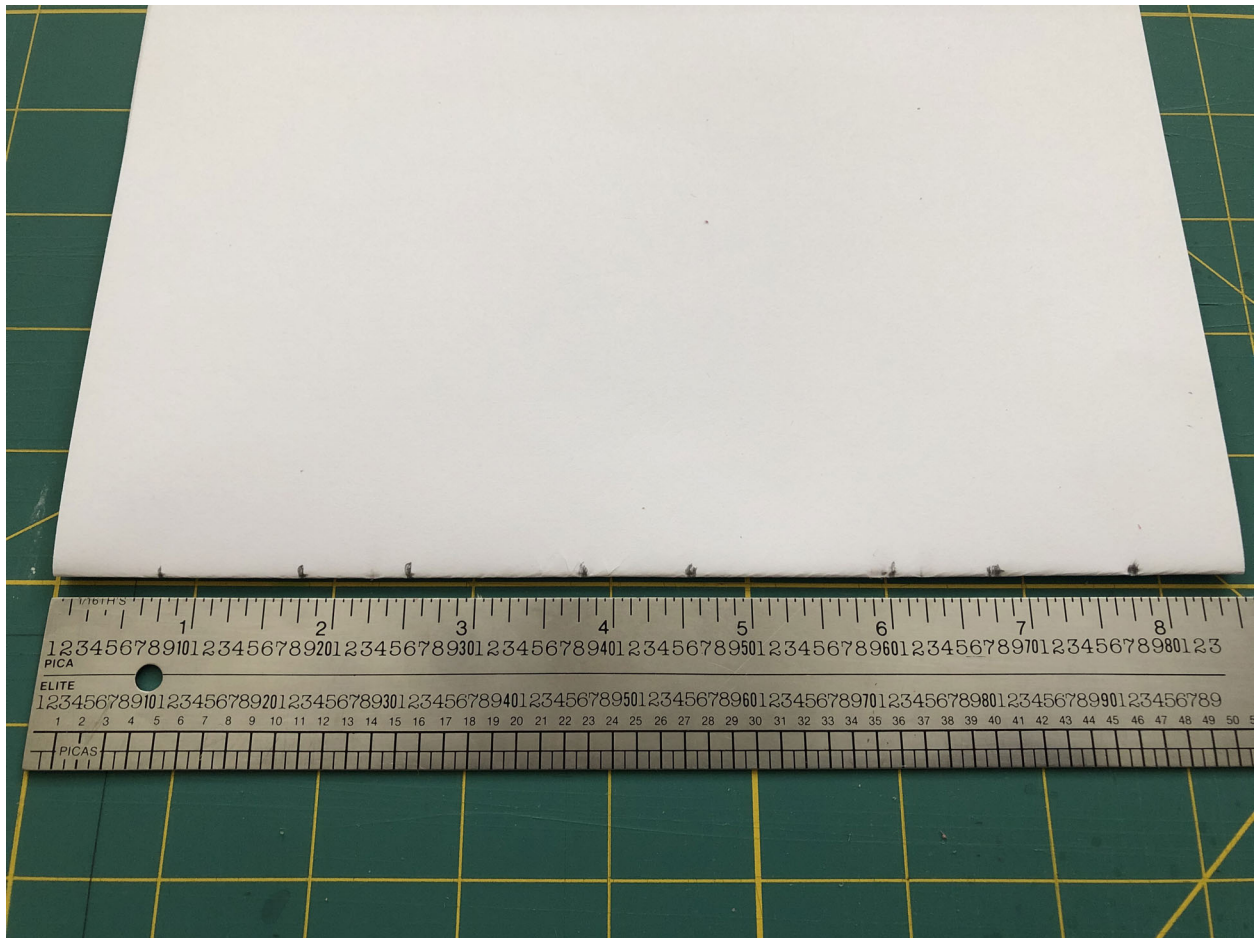
1. Fold single pages short grain



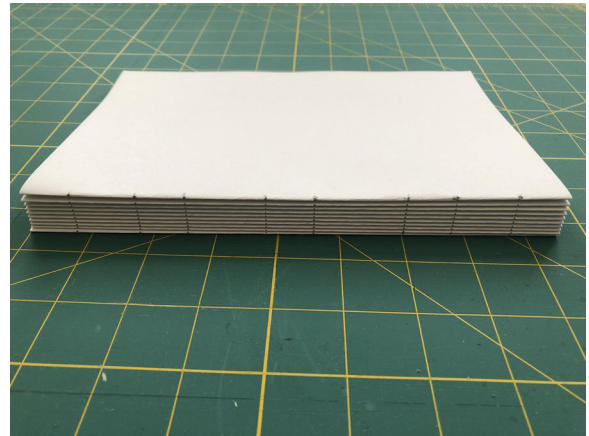
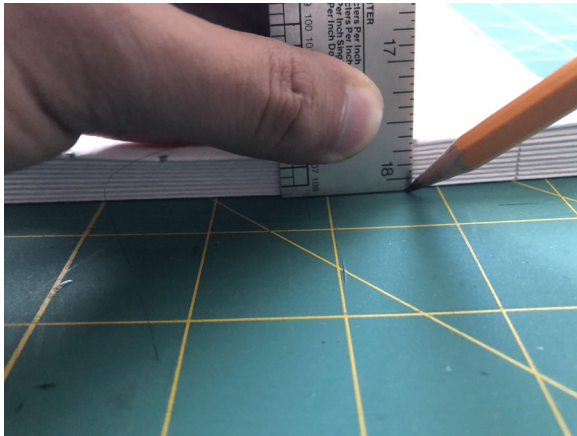
2. Nest four folded pages (folios) to create a signature. Make 10 signatures.



3. With one signature mark the following measurements: (Note: Make sure to have an even number of marks; You can adjust the amount of marks and distance based on the size of your book)



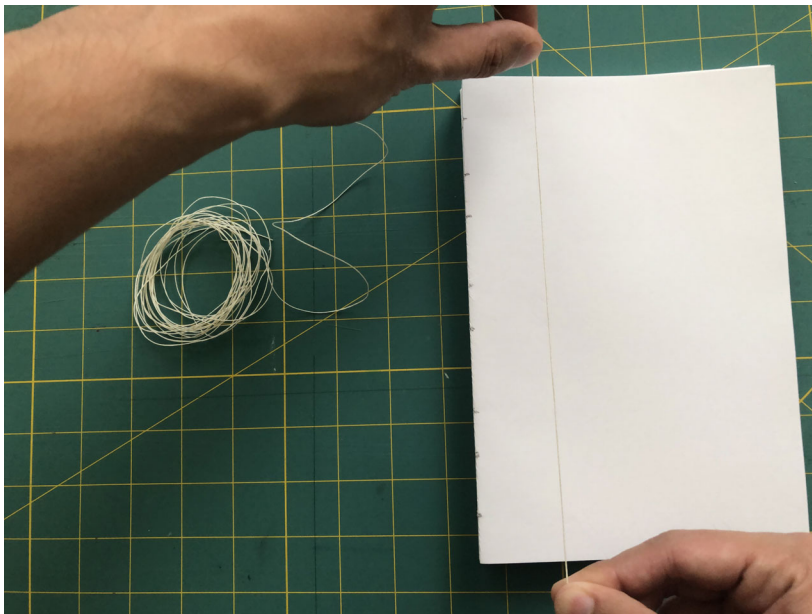
4. Stack up signatures and place the marked signature at the top. Using a ruler trace the marks across signatures.



5. Using the needle or awl, poke through all of the marks on the signatures. Set aside the signatures.

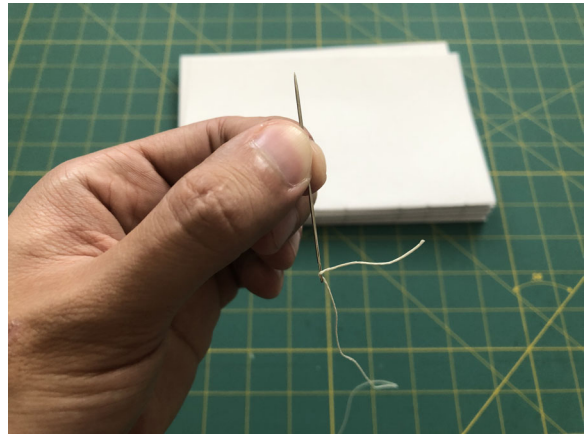
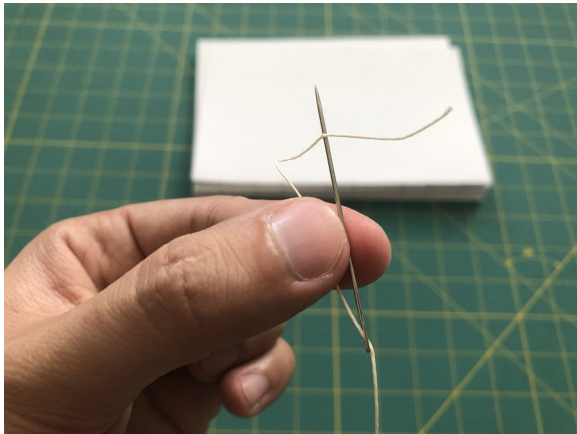
THREAD

6. Measure length of thread



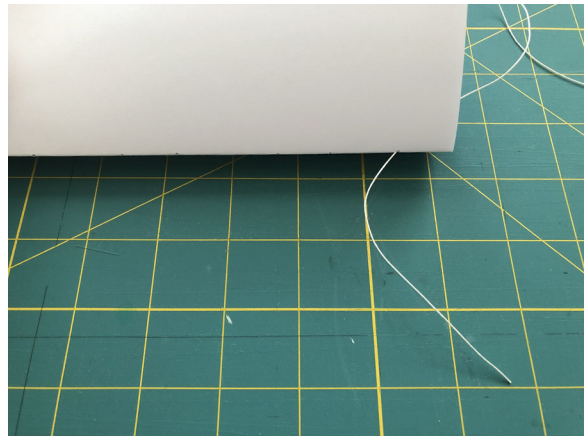
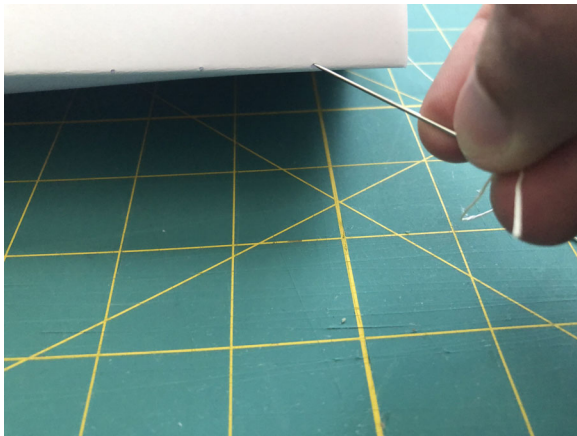
$(\text{Height of each signature}) \times (\text{the total amount of signatures}) + 3 \text{ inches} = \text{length of thread}$

7. Thread your needle to secure



SEWING SIGNATURES

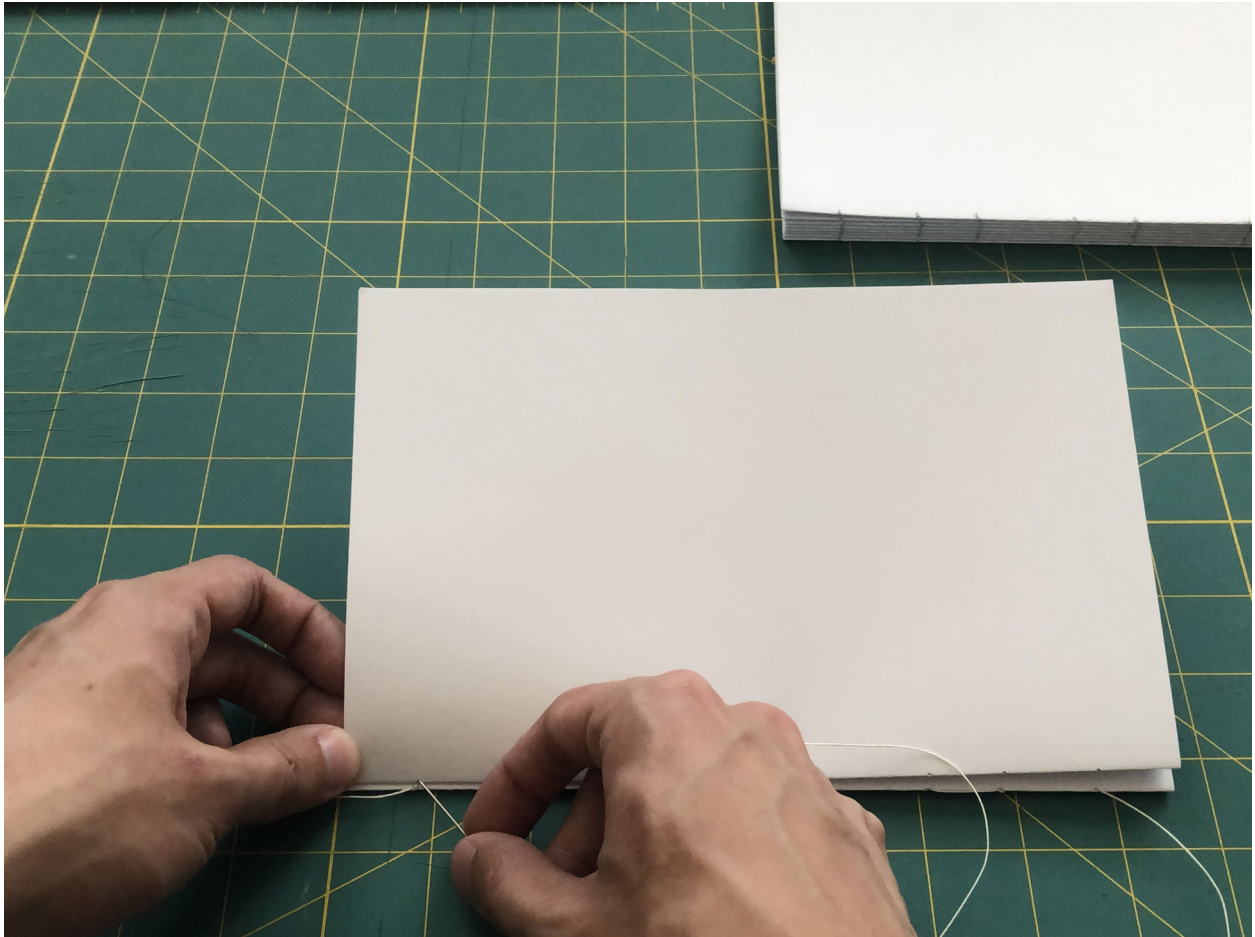
8. Begin to sew the first signature, from out to in, leaving a tail about 3 inches.



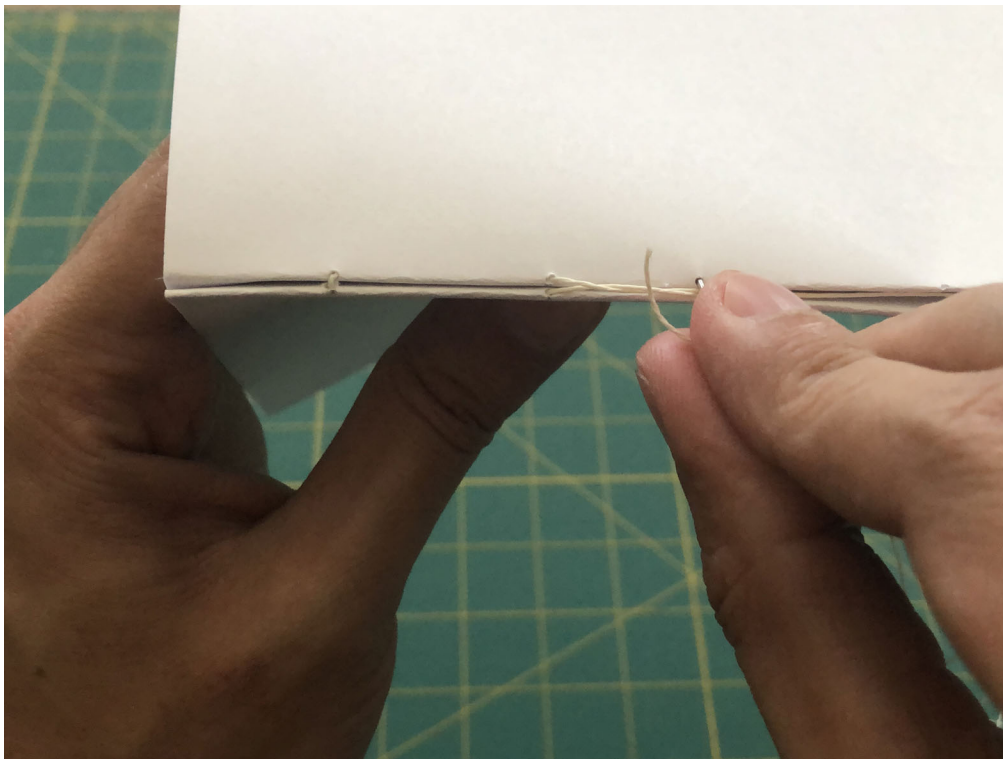
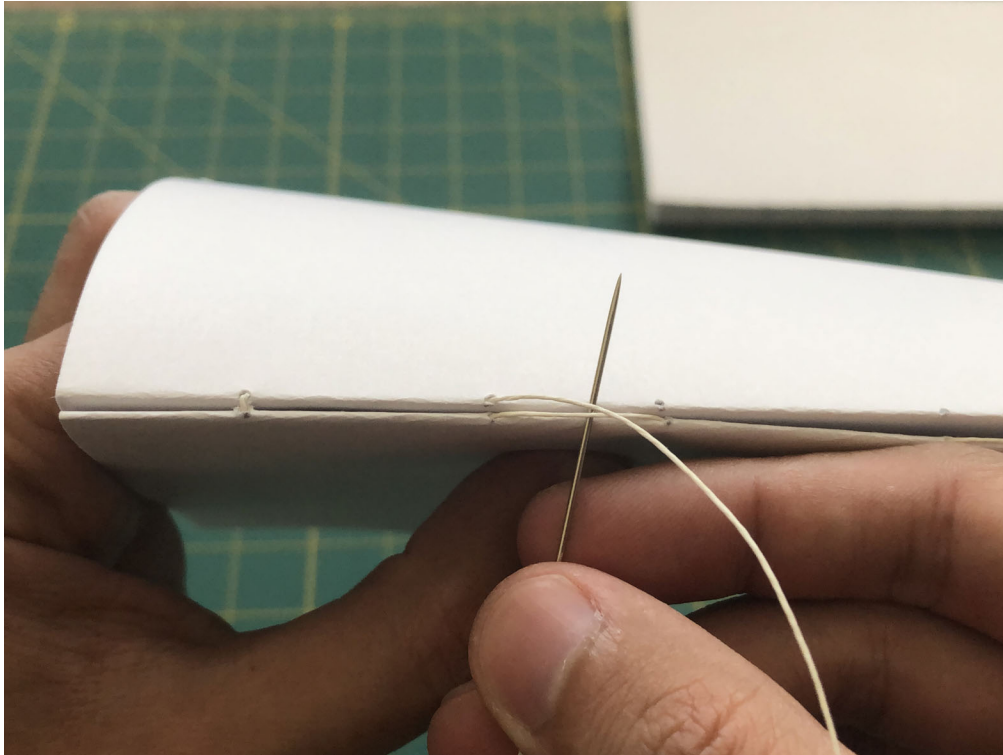
9. Continue to sew in and out, from the next hole until you get to the end of the first signature.



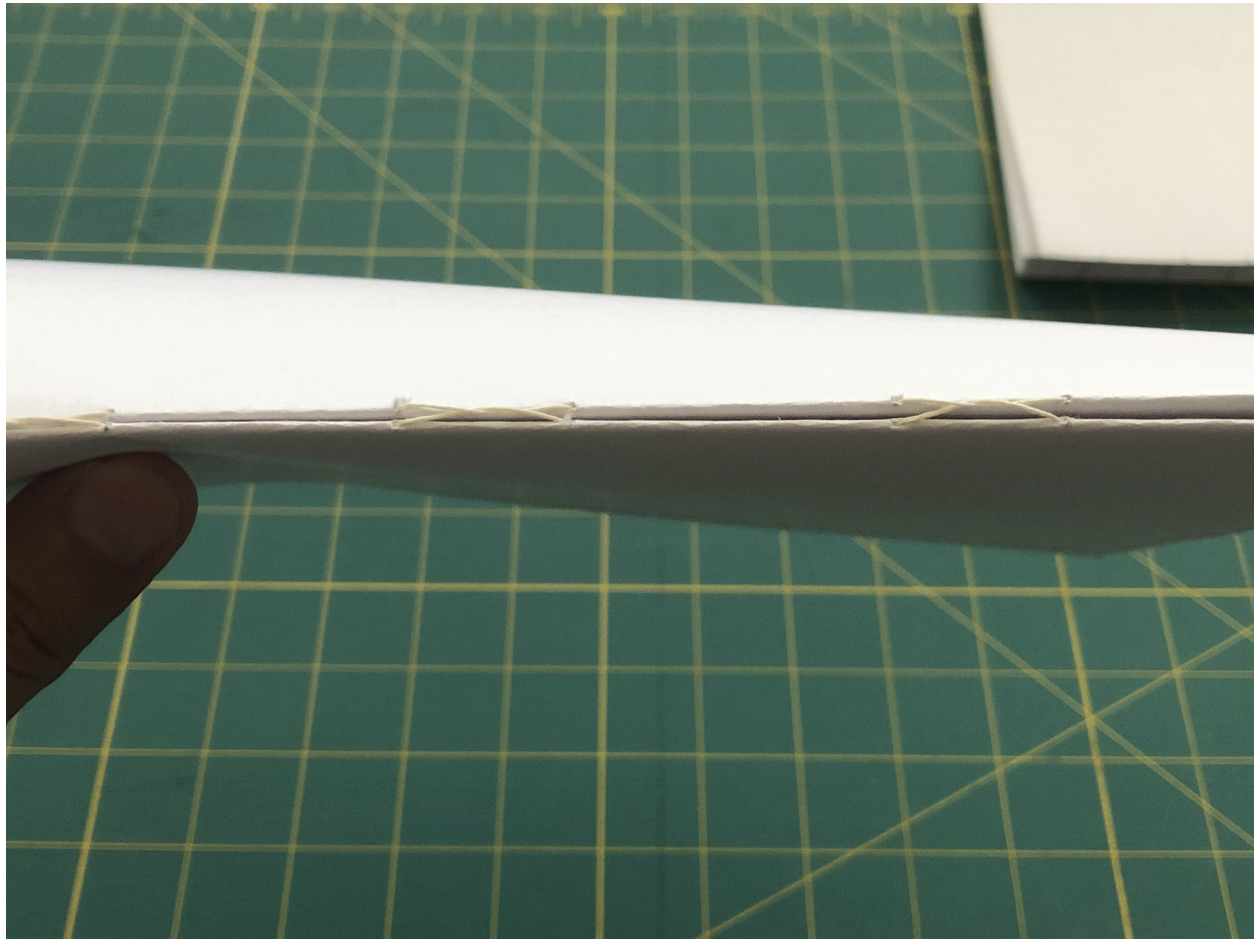
10. Place the second signature on top of the first signature and continue to thread into the first hole of the second signature.



11. When you sew out of the second hole of the second signature, catch the stitch from the first signature before you go to the third hole. This creates the “link”.



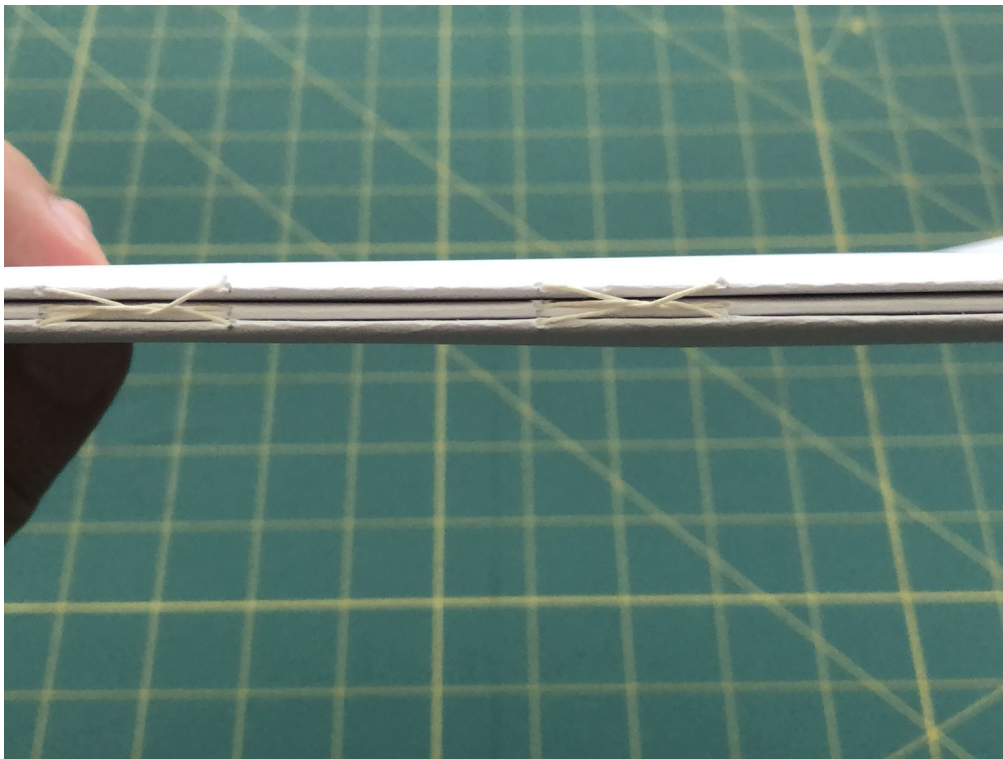
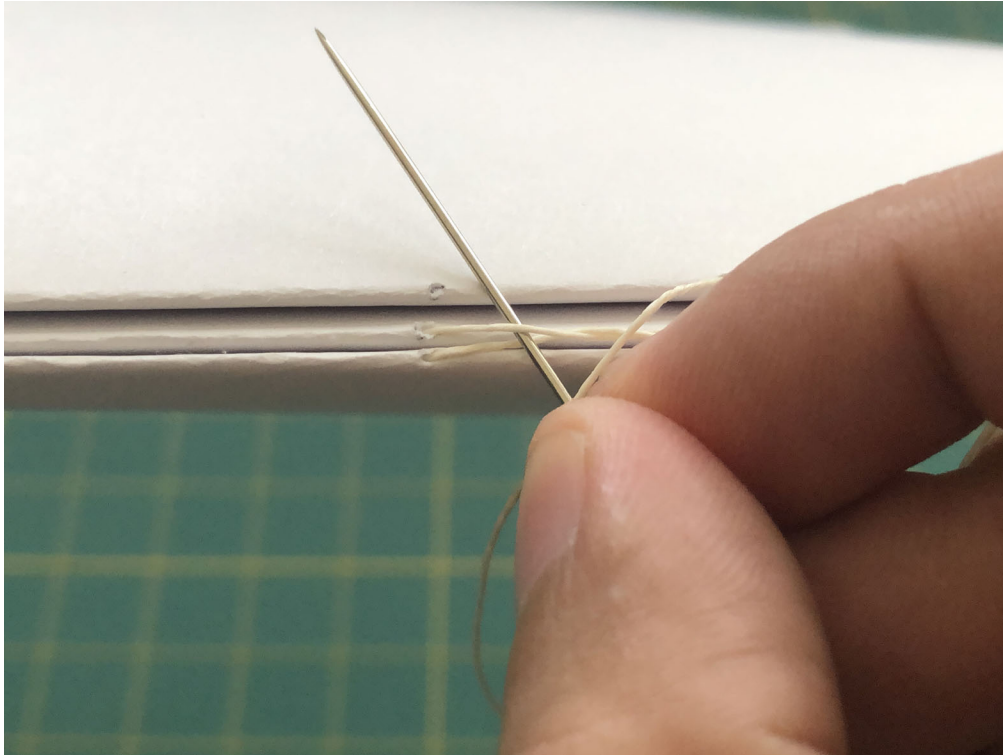
12. Go to the next hole of the second signature and repeat the “link”. Each stitch will then look like an *X*.



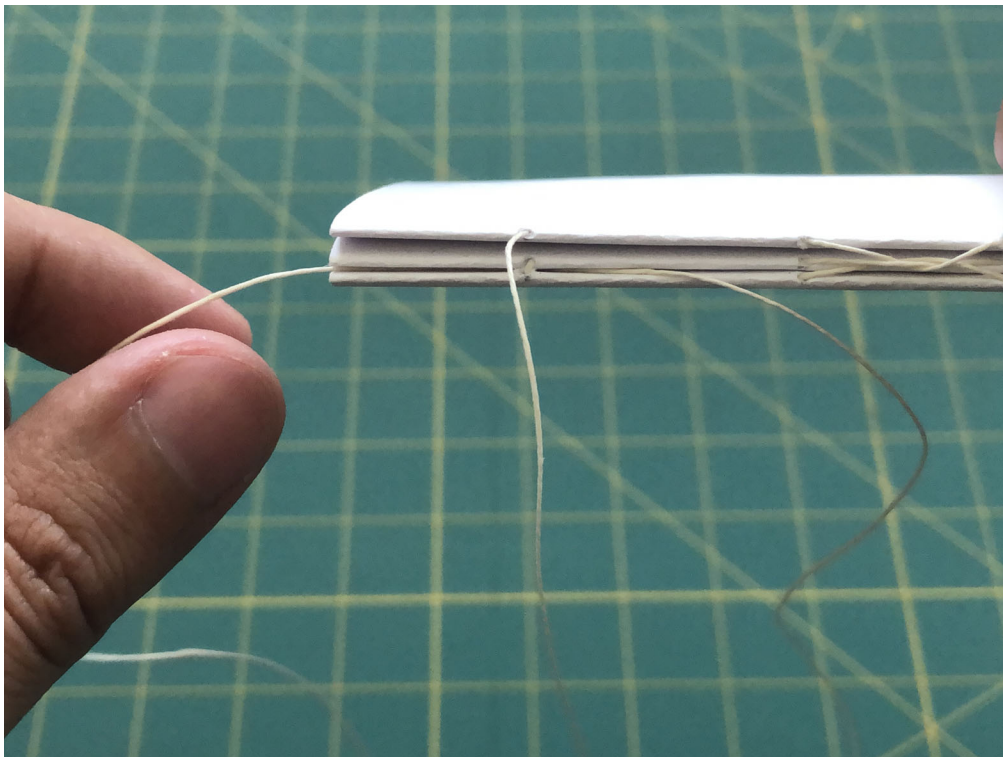
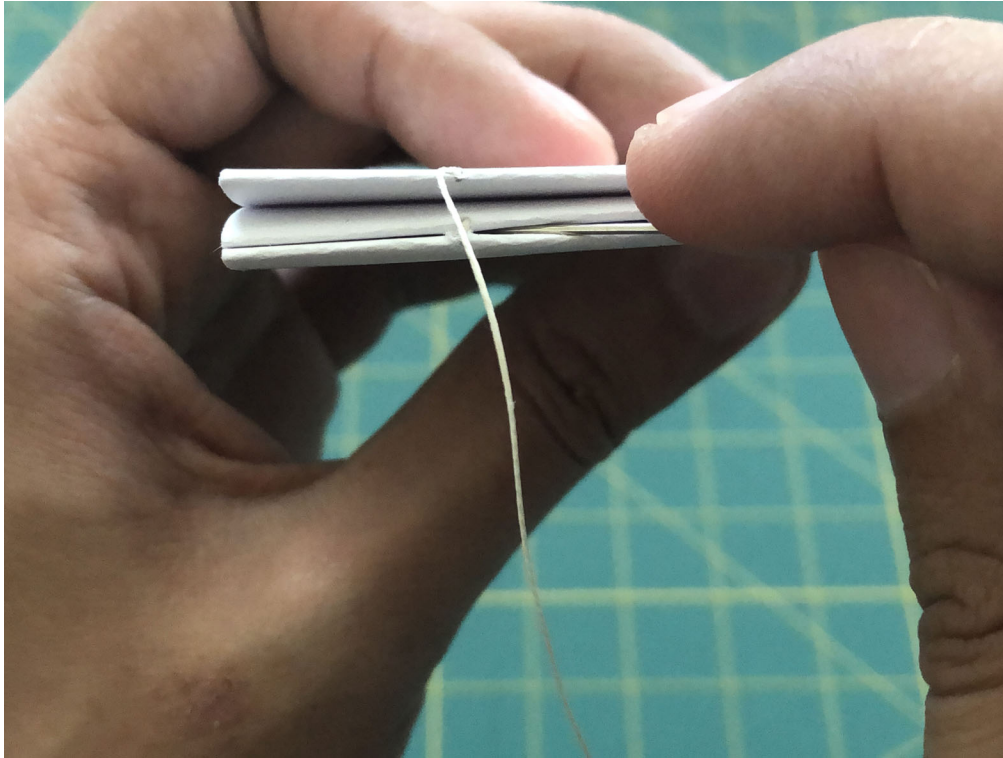
13. When you reach the end of the second signature, tie off in a knot with the tail from step 8. Do not cut.

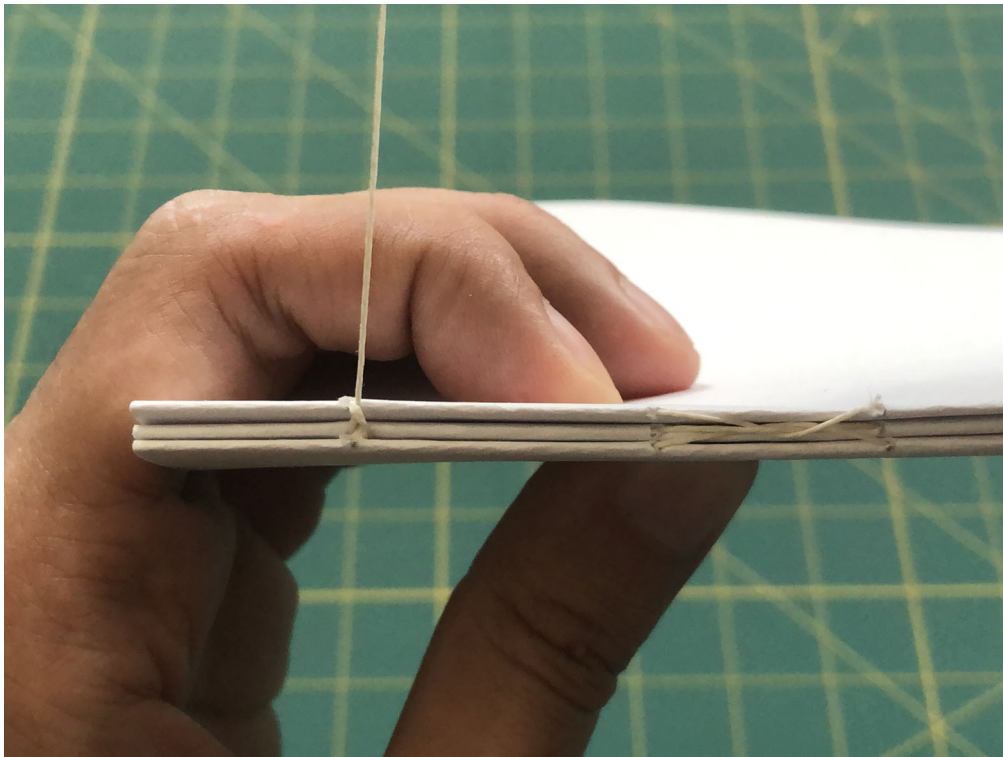
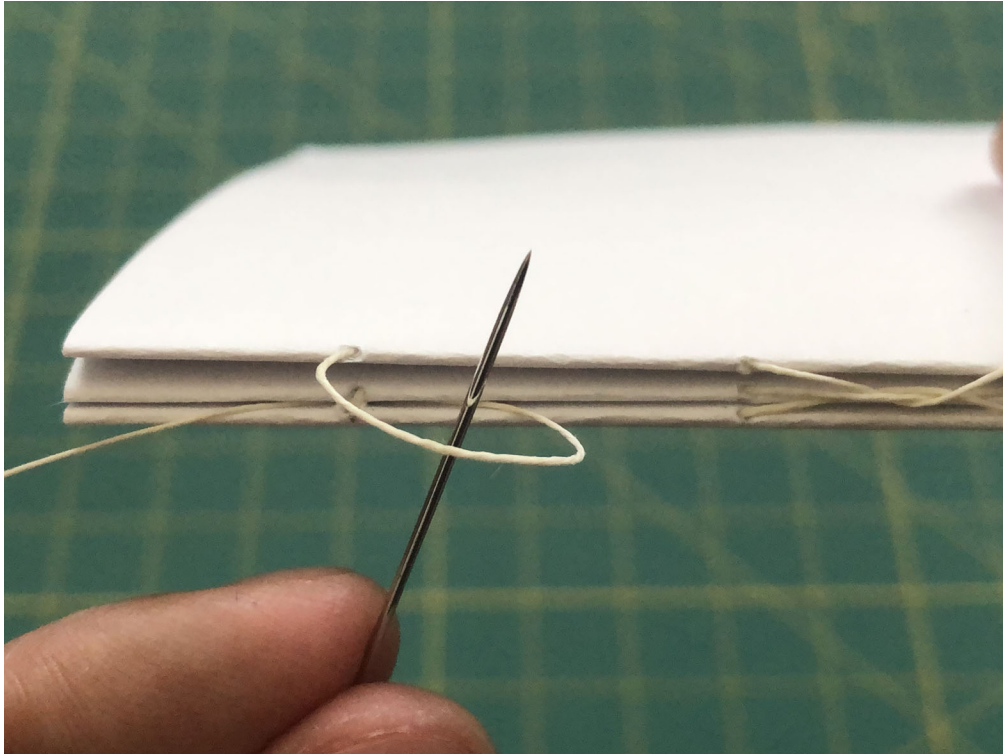


14. Add the third signature. This time, when linking, only take the thread from the signature directly below the current signature. This will create a zig-zag.

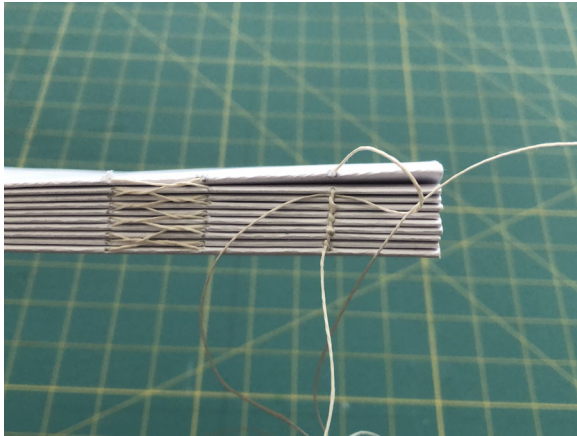


15. When you reach the end of the signature, go to the signature below the current signature and go around and loop the thread to create a kettle.





16. Continue sewing with the next stacked signature, with the links and kettles, until complete. Tie a double knot when you get to end. Trim off excess thread.



PREPPING SEWN TEXTBLOCK FOR COVERS

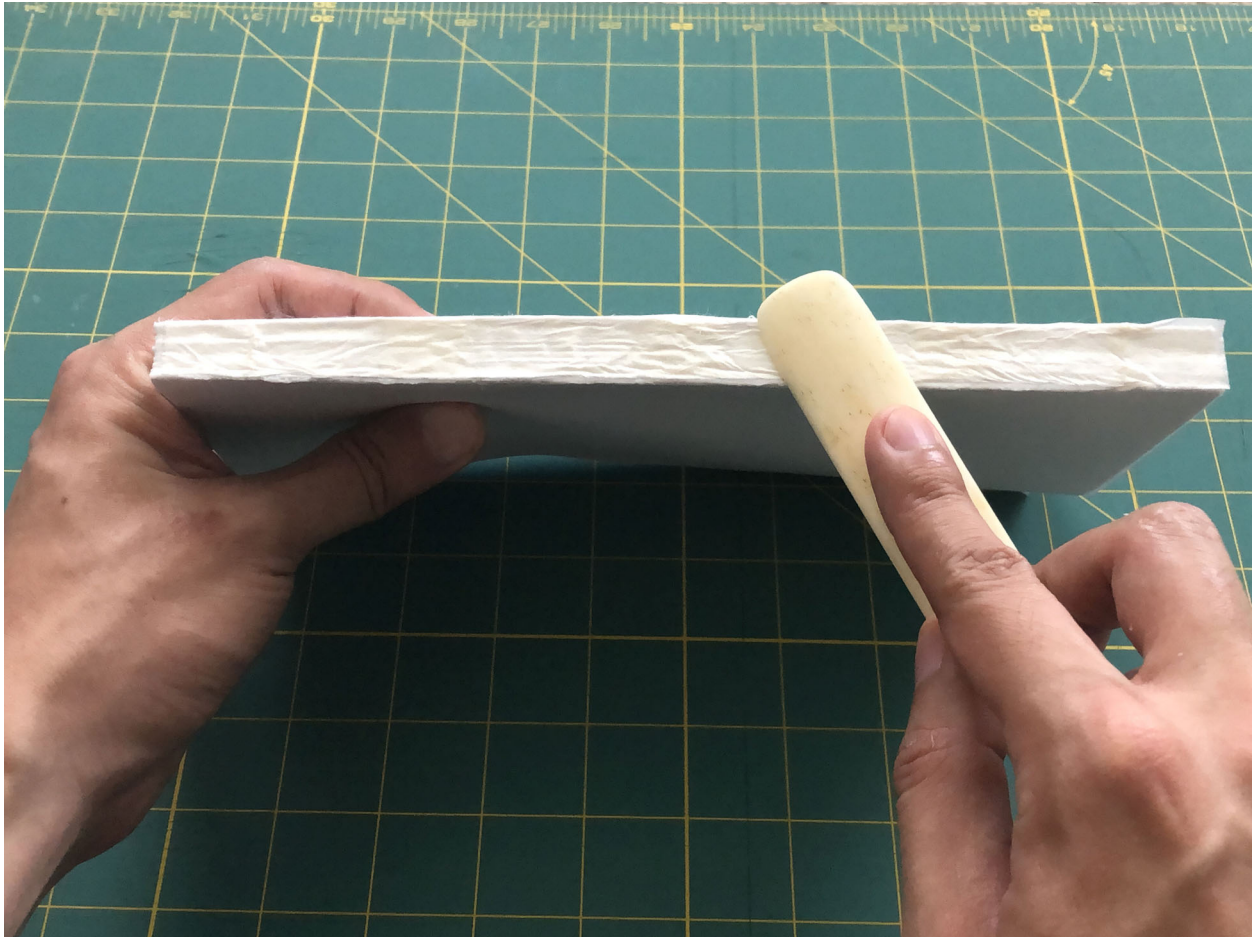
17. Coat the spine of the sewn textblock with PVA glue. Allow drying in between layers of PVA.



18. Cut Japanese tissue paper to the height and width of the textblock.



19. Place the tissue paper onto the spine of the textblock, covering the sewing. Smooth out by pressing against the spine. Use the surface of the table to lightly tap the spine against tabletop and set to dry.



BOOK COVER

A full case bound cover has 4 parts – front cover, back cover, spine, and bookcloth



20. To measure the front and back covers with the DAVY BOARD or MAT BOARD:

20a. $(\text{Height of the TEXTBLOCK}) + 2 \text{ boards thickness} = \text{height of the cover board}$



20b. Width of the COVER BOARD = width of the TEXTBLOCK

21. To measure the spine cover with the CARDSTOCK:

Height of the COVER BOARD; Width of the TEXTBLOCK



22. Bookcloth measurement

22a. There should be an even amount of border around the front cover, back cover, and spine.



22b. The spine piece should be ONE BOARD'S THICKNESS in between the front and back covers.



23. Glue the cover and spine boards onto the bookcloth. Smooth out the boards with the bonefolder.

24. Trim the corners of the bookcloth leaving a board thickness at 90-degree angle.



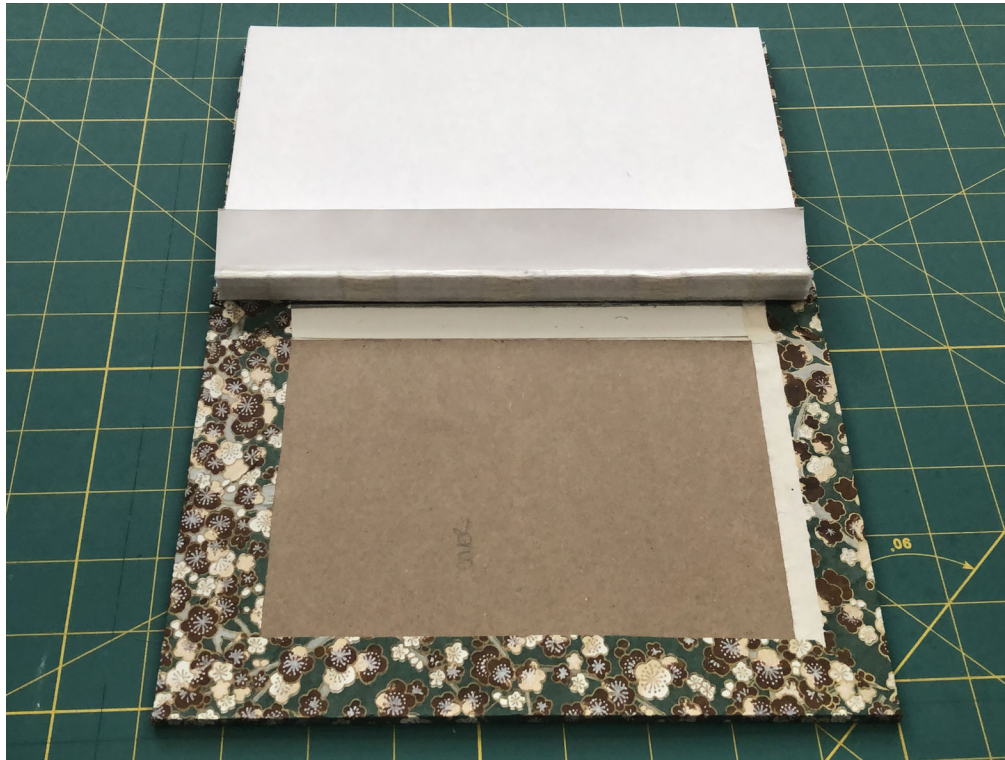
25. Paste and smooth down the edges of the bookcloth to the cover. (Note: paste the top and bottom; fold over the corners; paste the sides)



26. Trim the first and last pages of the sewn textblock leaving 1 inch.



27. Place the textblock inside the cover, allowing an even amount of space on the top, bottom, and fore-edge



28. Put the waste paper behind the trimmed page to protect the textblock and coat the 1 inch page with PVA.



28a. Remove the waste paper and close the cover (Make sure the textblock is secure)

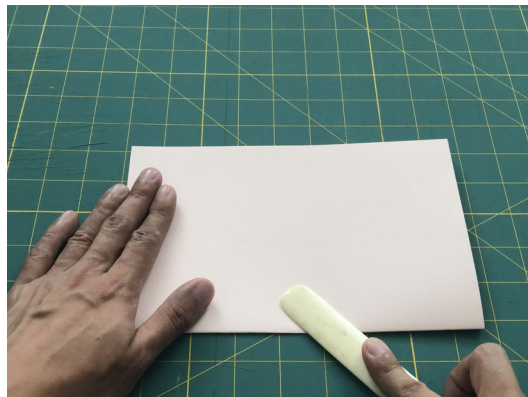


28b. While still wet, open the book and smooth out the pasted hinge with the bonefolder. Repeat on the other side.



FINISHING WITH ENDSHEETS

29. Create a single folio using the colored paper, the same size as the folios in the textblock.



30. Cover the colored paper with waste paper, leaving about less than .25", and coat with PVA.



31. Place the coated side of the colored paper on top of the textblock.



32. With the waste paper in between the endsheet, apply PVA on the side facing the cover.



33. Carefully remove the waste paper and close the book.



33a. Open the book and smooth out the endsheet.



33b. While wet, open and close the cover to allow the book to naturally become flexible so that the book does not get too tight when opening.



34. Repeat on the other side to complete.

